

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

October 9, 2014

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

HEC-TV Special on River Bridge Wins Regional Emmy

by Andrew Gates

Although the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge has won several engineering awards since its completion in February, it recently received some unusual recognition.

It is the subject of an Emmy-winning documentary.



The Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge was the subject of a Emmy-winning documentary. See more photos of the bridge on MoDOT's flicker site - [Stan Span](#). Photos by Cathy Morrison.

Higher Education Channel TV, or HEC-TV, won a Mid-America Regional Emmy in the "Public/Current/Community Affairs – Feature/Segment" for their program "A Bridge to the Future." The segment features video and interviews about the construction of the bridge and video of the completed bridge in use.

"Educational programming such as this is a great way to speak to future designers and engineers. It was a little daunting to do an hour-long live show, but the people of HEC-TV were great to work with," said Randy Hitt, Mississippi River Bridge project director.

HEC-TV is a St. Louis television station that produces programming intended to "to strengthen and promote the education, arts, and cultural communities in the St. Louis Metropolitan area," according to its website.

In addition to "A Bridge to the Future," the station also produced two hour-long programs about "The Science Behind the Mississippi River Bridge." In those programs, they spoke with the team who designed and oversaw construction for the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge.

The Mid America Regional Emmy's were presented Sept. 27 in Kansas City.

Links:

[A Bridge to the Future](#)

[The Science Behind the Mississippi River Bridge, Part 1](#)

[The Science Behind the Mississippi River Bridge, Part 2](#)

Remember to Vote for the Stan Span

The Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge has been selected as one of 10 national finalists in the 2014 America's Transportation Awards competition, and MoDOT needs your help to win. It is time to vote!

The People's Choice Award will be selected through online voting which ends Oct. 24. The winners will be announced at the AASHTO Annual Meeting on Nov. 23, 2014. You can vote up to 10 times each day through AASHTO's online awards link - [Vote for the Stan Span](#).

Make sure to select MoDOT's entry shown as MO/IL: Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge – Mississippi River Bridge on the voting page.

Messages Flash Warning of Incidents

by Linda Wilson-Horn

MoDOT's more than 250 dynamic message signs are testing a new way to get motorists' attention. When there are incidents or work zones with lane closures on the interstates, MoDOT's Transportation Management Centers display warning messages on the dynamic message signs. These messages include information warning motorists of the incident or work zone, what lanes are closed and either alternate routes or potential delay information. Starting in October, the first line of the message will flash to help these critical messages stand out.

The new practice came from an employee suggestion in an effort to draw more attention to DMS messages pertaining to incidents and other appropriate lane closure situations. The flashing, which is about



Dynamic message signs across Missouri now include a blinking first line to grab motorists' attention and warn them of incidents on the road ahead. In this example, the line "HEAVY CONGESTION" would blink slowly.

the same pace as a flashing arrow board, will further distinguish the incident messages from the general public safety messages.

Director of Highway Safety Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

by Marisa Ellison



Director of Highway Safety Leanna Depue was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger during the recent Blueprint Conference held in St. Louis.

It was no surprise the 2014 Blueprint Conference, sponsored by the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, was successful. With more than 300 in attendance and sessions on a variety of topics relative for a diverse audiences, attendees' expectations were definitely met.

What was a surprise, at least for her, was recognizing Director of Highway Safety Leanna Depue with a Lifetime Achievement Award, presented at the end of the awards luncheon by MoDOT Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger.

Via video, several of Leanna's colleagues, including ones from Federal Highway Administration and the National Highway and Traffic Safety Association, shared their congratulations and thanked Leanna for not only all the work she has done to save lives in Missouri, but throughout the country.

Leanna holds a Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni for the College of Health and Human Services in 2000.

She has devoted over 20 years of her career to saving lives on Missouri roads, first with her career as Director of the Missouri Safety Center at the University of Central Missouri, then as Director of Highway Safety with MoDOT.

She is recognized at the national level as a leader in the area of traffic safety, and 10 years ago, shared her vision for a statewide organized effort, now known as the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. With her leadership in the Coalition, Missouri's fatalities have been reduced by 40 percent in 10 years.

Statewide Highway Safety Award Winners Announced

by Marisa Ellison

Four highway safety statewide award winners and 14 regional award winners received recognition at the 2014 Blueprint for Safer Roadways Conference held in St. Louis last week. Six organizations and individuals also received outstanding partner awards. The conference was sponsored by the Missouri Coalition of Roadway Safety, whose goal is to reduce fatalities and disabling injuries on Missouri roads.

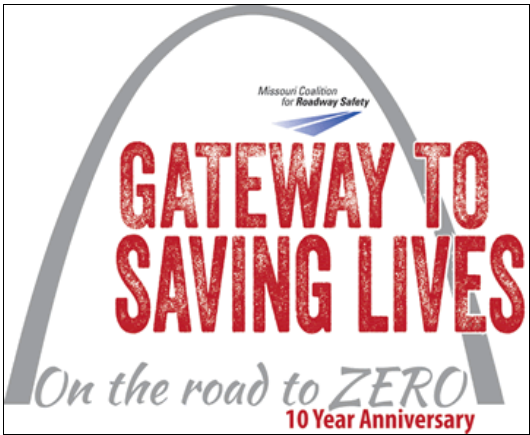
"We appreciate the efforts of all who are involved to encourage safe driving, and we will continue to work towards the ultimate goal of losing zero lives on Missouri roads," said Leanna Depue, Ph.D., director of highway safety for the Missouri Department of Transportation.

The statewide Arrive Alive Award was presented to One Curve at a Time, a nonprofit organization made up of concerned citizens who are dedicated to building awareness and making changes to dangerous roads and curves where vehicle crashes occur. The organization was founded by the family of Kaela Marie Acrchambault, who was 20 years old when she died in a traffic crash along Highway FF in Jefferson County. The award recognizes an individual or group who has shown exemplary dedication and leadership in highway safety. It is the highest award given by the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety.

The statewide Tempe Humphrey Award was presented to ThinkFirst of Greater Kansas City/The Research Foundation. This award recognizes an individual or group who has made a significant impact in the area of youth or teen safety. It was named for a former Division of Highway Safety employee who created and implemented the statewide Team Spirit program to engage high school students in the process of safe driving. Tempe was killed in 2006 in a motorcycle crash. ThinkFirst of Greater Kansas City is committed to educating young people about the importance of safe driving by offering three distinct programs: school assemblies, the Youth Traffic Offenders program and RoadWise. Among 145 chapters nationwide, the KC Chapter of ThinkFirst ranks number one in the number of youth reach each year.

The statewide Lay Down the Law Award was presented to Sgt. Brent Bernhardt, public information officer for Troop B of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. This award recognizes an individual or group who has substantially advanced highway safety in Missouri. Sgt. Bernhardt has dedicated 24 years to serving Missouri travelers. He has spent countless hours, evenings and weekends presenting a variety of safety programs to audiences of all ages. His passion and determined approach for the safety of the traveling public comes across in every presentation. Working crashes has given him firsthand experience to relate to the audience the difference a seat belt can make, as well as the dangers of distracted and impaired driving.

The statewide Show-Me Safety Award was presented to three organizations, TrailNet, MoDOT and Metro of St. Louis, for their collaboration of "Safe Roads for All," a safety campaign to build awareness regarding bicyclist, pedestrian and motorist safety. For the past three years, the three organizations have partnered to lead a safety drive, a large bicycle ride and a walking group to MetroLink from Forest Park to the St. Louis Downtown Bicycle Station to represent the importance of sharing the road.



The MO Coalition for Roadway Safety oversees seven regions, who work closely with communities to identify opportunities to reduce fatalities and disabling injuries on Missouri roads. Each region selected an Arrive Alive Award recipient and a Show-Me Safety Award recipient.

The Coalition is led by an executive committee who recognized the following organizations and individuals as outstanding partners: City of St. John and Hardy Menees of Menees, Whitney, Burnet and Trog for their primary safety belt ordinance legal defense; Kurt Larson for the Missouri Safe and Sober Program; Joe Machens Ford, ThinkFirst Missouri and KRCG 13 for their support of the “Focus on the Road” campaign.

The Blueprint Conference is held every two years and led by several active members of the Coalition. More information about the Coalition can be found online at www.savemolives.com. Photos of award winners will soon be posted here.

Assistant Maintenance Supervisor Positions Help Complex Situations

by Linda Wilson-Horn

Changes in leadership are coming to some maintenance buildings across the state. Assistant maintenance supervisor positions are being added to 26 buildings to help maintenance supervisors provide more guidance and support in complex maintenance areas and to continue to provide a high level of customer service.

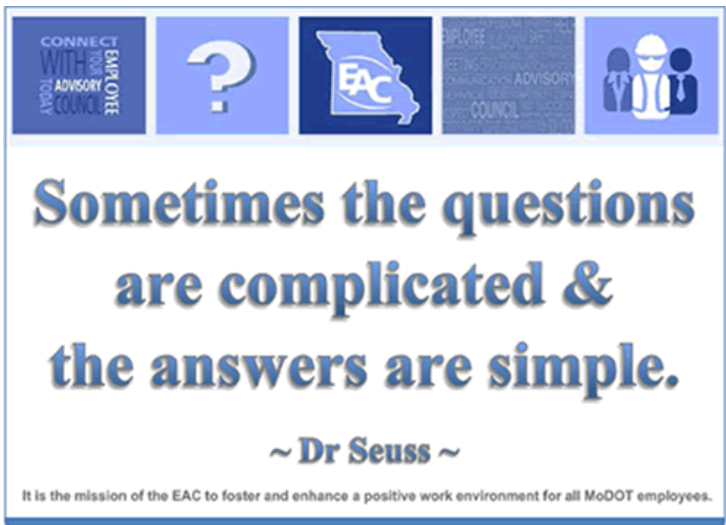
“In the past three years, districts have tried to shift and adjust responsibilities,” said State Maintenance Engineer Beth Wright. “However every district has identified limited locations in which a change is necessary to close the gap in maintenance leadership.”

A team comprised of members from Central Office and all districts was assembled to discuss various improvements to our winter operations. The team identified there was a need to provide additional supervision to better support and develop our full-time and temporary maintenance employees, and our non-maintenance snow fighters. The position also helps support our 24/7 operations at some locations.

Assistant maintenance supervisors will be located at complex buildings, like buildings with higher customer service call requests, higher rotation of seasonal employees and additional snow fighters, incarcerated crews, more routine night time operations, higher employee turnover, bridge operations, striping operations, drainage work and buildings with high employee to supervisor ratios. This new position does not change the overall numbers in Maintenance.

Both urban and rural maintenance buildings are experiencing a need for additional leadership throughout the state. While we are not adding any additional maintenance positions, we will shift a maintenance crew leader position to an assistant maintenance supervisor position in 26 facilities throughout the state. Each district has determined the facilities at which these assistant maintenance supervisor positions will be placed.

Districts will advertise and fill their positions prior to snow season 2014.



Simplifying the Safety Message

by Tammy Wallace

MoDOT was represented again this year at the annual business meeting of the North American Association of Transportation Safety and Health Officials (NAATSHO).

Shari Dye, safety and health manager for the Northeast District, presented information on how MoDOT is expanding our direction to simplify safety messages for employees. Two of the topics she discussed were the Back 2 Basics videos and Choose One safety posters.

This presentation was a follow-up to last year’s contribution to the conference by Shari and Chris Engelbrecht, safety and health manager for the Central District. They discussed how MoDOT’s Gear Up program, built around our



five safety messages, was developed to simplify employee training. They also shared how the comprehensive safety site was developed.

Safety and Claims Manager Steve Patterson also attended this year's conference, which held in Scottsdale, Arizona.

New Safety Tools Help Start a Conversation

by Tammy Wallace



Choose One

The newest Choose One safety posters will be delivered to all facilities within the next couple of weeks. The latest posters focus on the importance of calling 1-800-DIG-RITE and wearing the proper safety footwear.

To save resources, these posters will be printed back to back. We are asking the building supervisors to use the DIG-RITE side of the poster first, since fall is a time when operations that call for digging are often part of the job. Then in December, to flip the poster over to the safety footwear side to focus on the importance of wearing the proper safety footwear to prevent injuries.

The district and division health and safety managers will be distributing the posters soon. The posters are a good tool to use during morning safety discussions to start a conversation about safety procedures and personal protection equipment.

All of the Choose One and PPE posters have now been added to the comprehensive safety website. Over the next few weeks earlier safety posters that are still relevant, such as the 3-Point Contact poster, will also be added to the site ([safety posters link](#)).

Back 2 Basics

The most recent Back 2 Basics video on chemical weed control is posted on the comprehensive safety website ([safety video link](#)). The video focuses on several specific steps in the chemical weed control process that can become problematic if the appropriate personal protection equipment is not worn, and safety practices for handling chemicals are not followed.

Supervisors are asked to show the video during morning safety discussions when crews will be using chemicals to spray weeds.

Upcoming video topics include:

- preventative maintenance on vehicles and equipment (focused on prepping for winter operations)
- slips, trips and falls
- snow removal safety

It is important to remember that these videos do not include every safety step in an operation, but are designed to help start a conversation about all of the safety actions to be taken on the job.



The most recent Back 2 Basics safety video features chemical weed control safety.

Fatality Update



What's Happening



Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan

To serve its members, MCHCP will now offer two Open Enrollment meeting types: Express and Regular. Pre-recorded webinars will also be available on their website. This information is relevant for those who participate in the dental or vision plans offered through MCHCP, but it is not related to MoDOT's health care plan.

[Click here for full details – PDF LINK](#)

Note to MoDOT Employees: This document is only for employees who are members of the MOSERS retirement system and MCHCP Medical Plan. It does not include the MPERS retirement system or the MoDOT/MSHP Medical Plan.



Chat With The Chief

Remember to check out Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger’s blog post. This week he talks about employee fall meetings - [Chat with the Chief](#).

District	# of people	Miles	Miles per person
Central District	33	6,048	183
Central Office	91	14,587	160
Kansas City	36	9,024	250
Northeast	18	3,919	217
Northwest	32	10,354	323
Southeast	55	8,873	161
Southwest	46	12,227	265
St. Louis	50	18,847	376
TOTAL COMBINED	361	83,879	232

100 Mile Challenge Update

The St. Louis District is still in the lead with 18,847 miles. The Northwest District is also doing very well averaging 323 miles per person.

From our last check in, as a whole we have gained over 17,000 miles.

If you have not signed up yet it is not too late, you can always register. You have until Dec. 31 to log your miles.

1. Visit <http://100missourimiles.com/> and create an account on any computer or device
2. Select the Groups tab at the top of the page
3. Under Find a Group select workplace
4. Enter “MoDOT” as the Keyword
5. Select your District or the Central Office team
6. Join the group and get active, then log your miles back on the website.

October Service Anniversaries

30 Years

Andrew J. Smith - NW
Richard M. Hencinski - SL
Richard J. Herminghaus - SL
Angela S. Bonnot - CO
Darryl E. Grothoff – CO

25 Years

Mark Lee Corbin - NW
William W. Lacey - SE
Kim R. Reid - CO

20 Years

William J. Mallett - NE
Lonny P. Roberts - NE
Matthew Willing - NE
Linley J. Lipper - NE
Kenton D. Bohon - CD
Tamara Sue Gregory - CD
Julie Ann Haden-Stiles - SW
Michael Shannon Smith – CO

15 Years

10 Years

Patrick K. Kelly - NW
Steve Ray Windle - KC
Jeffrey L. Bathgate - KC
Jeffrey Todd Still - KC
John Daniel Adams - KC
Christopher A. Kelly - SL
Chad D. Engemann - SL
Joseph L. Boyer - SL
Sandra J. Taurone - SE

Charlene Marie Holdt - CO
Harry Frederick Gilmore - CO

David Jon Earls - NW
Roger Dean Curl - NW
Philip E. Giffin - KC
Delmar S. Cowherd - KC
Wayne Jay Goyea - SL
William L. Long - SW
Randy J. Vest - SW
Bartholomew C. Novinger - SW
Jan Annette Rowland - SW
Douglas Krister Sandgren - SW
Brent L. Campbell - SE
Kelly R. Niekamp - CO
Julie R. Lamberson - CO
James Robert Allison - CO

Billy Gene Aycock - SE
Laura Kay Alderson - CO
Janet Katherine Graham - CO
Lori Lynn Greer - CO

5 Years
Burt James Miller - NE
Easaw Thomas - KC
Christopher E. Gerke - KC
Alfred Vernon Mullins - CD
Mike R. Fogg - SL
Michael Rashaun Moore - SL
Virginia L. Lindquist - SW
Brandon Eugene Byrd - SE
Andrew Joseph Grimm - CO

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

October 9, 2014



- Home
- Central Office

Districts

- Northwest
- Northeast
- Kansas City
- Central
- St. Louis
- Southwest
- Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print Entire Edition

Dion Knipp Named Administrator of Transit

By Linda Wilson-Horn



New Administrator of Transit Dion Knipp looks forward to working with transportation partners in his new roll administering state and federal programs.

Dion Knipp has been named the Multimodal Division’s new Administrator of Transit. Knipp has worked for MoDOT for more than 23 years including the past 13 years managing federal aid projects. His experience includes among other things working in MoDOT’s Central District assisting cities and counties in the project development process and ensuring state and federal compliance. Most recently, he has served as the Aviation Programs Manager responsible for administering federal and state grant programs providing funding for airport planning and capital improvement projects.

Knipp will cross train with current Administrator of Transit Steve Billings until Billings’ retirement in early 2015. In his new position, Knipp is responsible for administering state and federal programs related to general public transportation and transit programs for agencies serving senior citizens and/or persons with disabilities.

“I look forward to working with our transportation partners to ensure Missourians have better access to employment, healthcare and other essential services,” said Knipp. “Steve Billings has been an outstanding public servant for the Missouri Department of Transportation and the transit community. I look forward to working with Steve during this transition to provide outstanding customer service to our transportation partners and the citizens of Missouri.”

Employee Development Programs Receive Health at Work Award

by Linda Wilson-Horn

MoDOT has received the Silver Health at Work Award for 2014 from ComPsych Corporation. ComPsych Corporation is a provider of employee assistance programs and is a leader of fully integrated employee assistance programs, behavioral health, employee wellness, work-life balance and other employee management services.

Since 2013, MoDOT has adopted a holistic approach to employee health and wellness, offering the MoDOT Employee Enrichment Zone (affectionately known as the MEE Zone, which is our work-life balance program) and the Highway to Better Health wellness program (in coordination with our health care provider, Coventry).

“The Health at Work award acknowledges MoDOT’s efforts to support the physical and mental health of employees through a variety of programs,” said Kristen Bagwill, Human Resources employee development manager. “It’s motivating to have our efforts recognized nationally. We will continue to strive to keep MoDOT a great place to work.”



Employees can access the MEE Zone on Sharepoint or the intranet by clicking on the Human Resources Division link.

Mapping the Apps for MoDOT

Information System’s Technologist Ricardo Morris was featured in Sunday’s Jefferson City News Tribune for his work in developing mobile apps that provide information to MoDOT customers. Here is Ricardo’s story, courtesy of the Tribune, article by Jeff Haldiman.

Developing customer technology to help Missourians get better information from MoDOT.

That’s the goal of Ricardo Morris who has been working in the department for the past year.

Whether it be developing apps for phones and tablets to working on department websites, Morris said it’s a continuing process of updating to make sure the customer gets the most up to date information.

“Whether it’s road closures or weather-related information, we’re working to make sure the public gets the best information possible,” he said. “We even have apps that allow people to contact us if they see street signals out or debris on the roadways.”

Morris did his undergraduate work in New York and got a master’s degree at Lincoln University.

He and his wife and three children enjoy central Missouri, but Morris said he still has roots in his home of Jamaica, which he tries to visit two or three times a year.

Despite remaining closely tied to home, Morris said central Missouri has become his second-home and he can’t say enough good things about the place he works.

“These are the best people around,” he said. “When they say they are a team, they truly mean team.”

Here is the link to the online article - [Ricardo Morris](#).

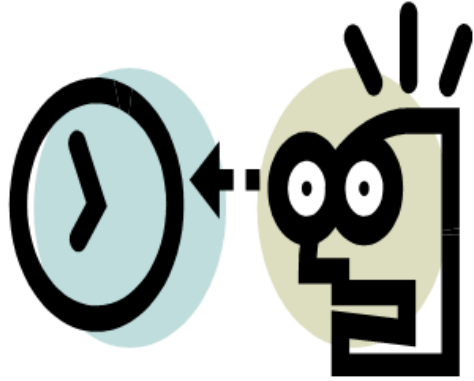


Ricardo Morris explains one of the apps he has created for MoDOT.

THE CLOCK IS TICKING!

CENTRAL OFFICE INNOVATIONS CHALLENGE





SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY DEC. 15

[INNOVATIONS CHALLENGE HOME PAGE](#)

Security Reminder

by Tim Taylor

The amount of daylight continues to decrease as we move into the fall season. Employees will often arrive or leave work when it is dark outside. Darkness is a criminal’s friend, so you must be extra careful. Here are some tips to help protect you from being victimized:

- Whenever possible walk with a group, especially when

your car is in a garage or other secluded area.

- If you are alone and you observe a suspicious person in the garage don't get out of the vehicle. Drive on and park in a more secure location.

- If you are leaving the building and see someone acting suspicious stay in the building. If you are already outside go back inside the MoDOT building or in another office building if a MoDOT building is too far away and report the issue to Capitol Police (522-2222). Ask that they stay in the area while you get to your vehicle safely.

- When working outside normal business hours, please do not prop doors open. Propping doors sets off an alarm and decreases your security in the work area.

- When working after hours it is a good idea to have your car keys, cell phone, purse or wallet and your access card with you at all times (even when using the restroom). You never know when you might have to leave the building or need to call for help.



Central Office Happenings



Mee Zone Event

Buying and Selling

Oct. 16 - 2 to 3 p.m.

Central Office Human Resources Training Room B, 601 West Main or via video conference

Are you thinking about buying or selling a house and want to know more about credit scores, mortgage loans and relocating? Attend this Mee Zone event to learn more.

Sign up using the [LMS Student Center](#), then select Home Buying/Selling Strategies and Mortgage Loans – CO.

For video conferencing call Amanda Henley (573) 526-5617.



First Aid/CPR/AED Classes

Oct. 21 - 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 12 to 3:30 p.m.

601 West Main Street in Training Room B.

Sign up using the [LMS Student Center](#), then select Course Code 24597, First Aid/CPR – Infant & CPR/AED – Adult and Child.



Flu Shots Offered

Central Office employees can register on SharePoint to receive their flu shot - [Sign up for flu shots](#).

Click on the link and select the day, time and location that best fits your schedule. Type your name in the location and time slot of your choice. To protect your privacy, once you have entered your name, hit the refresh button so your name will appear as XXXXXX. Be sure to write down the date and time you selected because you will not be able to see your name after refreshing and leaving the page.

- All employees are encouraged to participate because vaccination is the best protection from the flu.
- Employees with MoDOT medical insurance need to bring their insurance cards with them.
- Coventry will be billed directly and will pay 100 percent under preventative services. If you forget your card you will have to pay \$26 and then submit the claim form for reimbursement.
- Employees not covered by MoDOT medical insurance will need to pay \$26 to receive the shot (payment is due at the time, cash or checks are accepted).
- Employees will complete a consent form before receiving the shot (available at each location).
- Employees will soon be receiving an email with this information.

Date	Location	Time
10/14	105 West Capitol Ave. - Room 206	8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
10/15	601 West Main - Training Room B	8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
10/15	1617 Missouri Blvd. - 2nd Floor Conf. Room	1:30 to 4 p.m.
10/20	830 MoDOT Dr. - Gold Room	8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

October 9, 2014

Northwest District

- Home
- Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

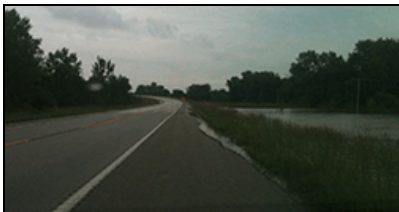
Southeast

Around The District

Flash flooding caused several routes to be closed in September in northwest Missouri, including an extended closure of a bridge due to excessive scour. Crews from the Northwest and Northeast districts worked several closures on U.S. Hwy 36, including a closure near New Cambria that called for collaborative efforts to re-route traffic across district lines and determine if anhydrous tanks that floated downstream posed a threat to travelers or the culvert against which they came to rest. Fortunately, the tanks were empty and the road was able to be reopened as soon as the flooding subsided.

The bridge over the Nodaway River on the border between Nodaway and Holt counties had to be closed after flash flooding caused excessive scour around one of the bridge supports and on the riverbank. The bridge is on the main route between Maitland and Graham, which are only two miles apart and share a school district.

Inspectors waited until the floodwaters receded to do an extensive inspection of the underwater structures and the stability of the bank. The bridge, built in 1963, was reopened, but significant scour had occurred around the footings of one bridge support and a 20-ton weight restriction was put in place until crews could stabilize the footings with rock. Luckily, there wasn't any additional flash flooding, which would have prolonged the closure.



Local radio reporters were reporting water over the road when Maintenance Superintendent Brad Gates took this picture on U.S. Hwy 65 south of U.S. Hwy 36. As he said, there's water ON the road, but not over it! Thankfully, the water didn't close U.S. Hwy 65 this time.



Flooding from Medicine Creek closed the westbound lanes of U.S. Hwy 36 near Utica. Traffic was rerouted head to head in the eastbound lanes until waters receded.



Several empty anhydrous tanks floated down the swollen stream during recent flooding and came to rest against a box culvert under U.S. Hwy 36 near New Cambria.

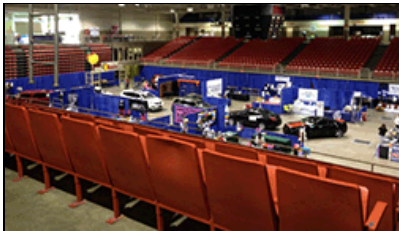
Archives

Print Page

Print Entire Edition

Josephine Expo

The Northwest District participated in this year's annual Josephine Expo, billed as a "day of fun for women" with booths, shopping, live music, fashion shows, a food court and more. This is the second time the district has had a booth at the expo, which is held in St. Joseph. Several employees from maintenance, safety, customer relations and human resources staffed the MoDOT booth where we gave away several hundred maps. We also handed out cards with the job application's website address, letting attendees know that MoDOT was hiring, we passed out pins, coloring sheets and magnets, and signed folks up to receive updates about roadwork in their area.



St. Joseph's Civic Arena had two floors of booths and vendors ready to greet guests at the Josephine Expo. This shot was taken before the doors opened to the public.



The theme of this year's Expo was "A Treat For Her" and MoDOT brought a variety of treats including maps and coloring pages. For many that stopped by the booth, though, the biggest treat was hearing that MoDOT was hiring!



Human Resources Manager Kendra Ezzell helped guests get materials that were related to their interests, whether it was a map, coloring pages or to sign up for traffic alerts.



Risk Management Office Assistant Amber Dydell is ready to help at the MoDOT table at the Josephine Expo.

Blueprint for Safety Conference

Fourteen Northwest Region Coalition for Roadway Safety members and six MoDOT employees trekked to St. Louis for the Gateway To Saving Lives: On The Road To Zero conference Sept. 29 through Oct. 1. General sessions had speakers from the National Safety Council, Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, and Federal Highway Administration, among others. Breakout sessions focused on the four "Es" of Blueprint: Engineering, Education, Enforcement and Emergency Services. Our Northwest delegation learned about new programs and practices that can be put in place across our 20-county region, and across the state.



Members of the Northwest Region Coalition for Roadway Safety await the first speakers of the conference. Pictured from the back left are: Richard Ketchem, St. Joseph Police Department; Lana Allen, MoDOT; Linda Laderoute, Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments; Amber Dydell, MoDOT; Allison Brucker, MoDOT



Wearing their conference t-shirts on the last day, members of the Northwest Coalition mingled with colleagues as they waited for the last speakers of the conference. More photos from the conference can be found on the [MoDOT Flickr page](#).

Field Check

Several Northwest District personnel recently conducted a field check on U.S. Hwy 24 in Chariton County. If you asked what a field check entails, you're not alone! Area Engineer Tonya Lohman provided the following explanation:

When a project is picked by the Planning Team to be placed in the STIP, there are several factors to take into consideration including input from the district pavement specialist and the regional planning commission, limits from previous projects, comments received by the area engineers and other circumstances individual to the project. It's then scoped by design as to what kind of pavement and any other considerations that need to be taken into account such as signals. A field check is then organized with construction, maintenance, design, and the area engineer. The team drives and walks the project to determine the absolute must-have needs of the project, items that would be of benefit but aren't absolutely required and the priority for those extra items, if they can be added.

Field checks are done as needed to begin design, as mentioned above, to review plans or if additional changes are required on an existing project.

Thanks also go to Tonya Lohman for the photo below.



Many departments collaborated for a field check on U.S. Hwy 24 in Chariton County. Pictured left to right are: Senior Highway Designer Joyce Reynolds, Resident Engineer James Gillespie, Transportation Project Manager Wes Moore, Transportation Project Designer Greg Anderson and Assistant District Construction and Materials Engineer Austin Hibler.

For more info

Marcia Johnson
Customer Relations Specialist
Northwest District
816.387.2495
Marcia.Johnson@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

October 9 , 2014

Home
Central Office

Districts
Northwest
Northeast
Kansas City
Central
St. Louis
Southwest
Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Northeast District

Memorial Highway Dedication Ceremony Honors Fallen Officer



Pictured are Officer Orville Rosenstengel's three children (L-R): Neal Rosenstengel, Dolores (Rosenstengel) Hogue and Warren Rosenstengel.

On Saturday, Oct. 4, a memorial highway dedication ceremony was held at the VFW in Vandalia, Mo, to honor the late Officer Orville Rosenstengel. Officer Rosenstengel was killed on Nov. 19, 1960, while protecting the citizens of his community.

On that evening, Officer Rosenstengel was having dinner with his family when he received a call about a disturbance. He grabbed his police cap and badge, but left his gun, and headed to the scene. He later arrested the man causing the disturbance and drove him to Vandalia City Hall in the suspect's car. When he ordered the man out of the car, the suspect reached for a hidden gun and shot Officer Rosenstengel in the chest, killing him instantly. Officer Rosenstengel had served with the police

department for five years. He was survived by his wife, two sons, a daughter, two grandchildren, his mother and five siblings.

State Representative Jay Houghton sponsored the bill that named a portion of U.S. Highway 54 near Vandalia in Audrain County "Officer Orville Rosenstengel Memorial Highway."

The VFW was packed with family, friends and law enforcement officers to honor Officer Rosenstengel. Speakers included Representative Jay Houghton, Captain Gregory Kindle of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Captain Larry Brothers of the Audrain County Sheriff's Office, Vandalia Police Chief Tony Laird, Ralph Kuda, the mayor of Vandalia and Brian Haeffner, MoDOT Northeast area engineer. Matt Williams from Senator McCaskill's office was also in attendance. Special readings were done by grandchildren and close friends of the family. The ceremony concluded with a family friend singing a song written about Officer Rosenstengel.

Some tears were shed and some laughter shared to honor the man they knew as "Rosie".

Around the District...



Sgt. Brent Bernhardt, Public Information Officer for



Terri Magers, school nurse for Atlanta C-3 Schools,

MSHP Troop B, was given the statewide Lay Down the Law Award last week at the 2014 Blueprint for Safer Roadways Conference in St. Louis for his exemplary service to northern Missouri.

was recognized during the 2014 Blueprint for Safer Roadways Conference with the Northeast Regional Arrive Alive Award for her role to continue to keep safety a priority in students' and parents' lives.



Kim Biondo, outreach coordinator for the Northeast Coalition and assistant at Lincoln County EMS, was awarded the Northeast Regional Show-Me Safety Award for her efforts to bring programs and safety information to the citizens in Pike, Lincoln and Warren Counties.



Pictured is John Morris, from Macon maintenance, showing a MoDOT truck to area children. He attended the Bears on Wheels event that was held in Macon on Sept. 25. (Not pictured) Neal Ross, from Macon Maintenance, took a truck and attended the Atlanta C-3 Big Wheels event on Sept. 23.

For more info

Marisa Brown-Ellison
Customer Relations Manager
Northeast District
573.248.2502
Marisa.Ellison@modot.mo.gov

1711 S. Highway 61
Hannibal, MO 63401

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

October 9, 2014

Kansas City
District

Home
Central Office

Districts

Northwest
Northeast
Kansas City
Central
St. Louis
Southwest
Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Visits Kansas City, Tours Manchester Project

It's not unusual for dignitaries and high profile people to stop by MoDOT's Kansas City District office and the surrounding metro area. And that was the case Monday, Sept. 28 when Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx stopped in Kansas City.

Foxx along with Kansas City Mayor Sly James, KCMO Councilman Jermaine Reed, other city officials and leaders of the KCATA loaded up on a metro bus to tour the city.

Their very first stop was the Manchester Bridge Project near the Truman Complex. Transportation Project Manager Susan Barry led the group around the construction site and discussed with them the importance of the new bridges and what phase of the project workers were undertaking. Foxx asked a few questions and took time to take photographs with the workers.



After the tour, the contingent of dignitaries hopped back on the bus and toured several major corridors of Kansas City. Their final stop was 27th & Prospect where Foxx announced a \$2.1million grant that will go towards helping pay for city street improvements. During the announcement Foxx talked about how he grew up in a city very similar to Kansas City. He said Kansas City was doing all the right things and was impressed with its forward thinking. He also took time to praise the Manchester Bridge Project and how important it is to Kansas City.

MoDOT is replacing the I-70 bridges over Manchester Trafficway, the Blue River and the adjacent rail yard. The \$36 million project is expected to be completed by December 2015. [Click here to learn more.](#)

MoDOT Honors Kansas City Icon Len Dawson

Arrowhead stadium was abuzz recently, but it wasn't because the home town team was grinding out another victory on the field. This excitement was all about honoring Kansas City icon Len Dawson.

On Friday, Sept. 26, MoDOT helped dedicate a bridge in honor of the Chiefs Hall of Fame quarterback and SuperBowl winner.

Representatives from the Chiefs' front office, Missouri Senator Paul LeVota and Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Stephen Miller took part in the ceremony. One by one, each speaker praised Dawson for his work both on and off the field.

The voice of the Chiefs Mitch Holthus may have said it best. "MoDOT, you got it right. He (Dawson) has been a figurative bridge for Kansas City and this honor is well deserved," Holthus said.

Dawson was a little more modest about the honor. "I'm excited, I'm also humbled to be the recipient of the Kansas City and the Kansas City Chiefs in this special, special way, Dawson said.

The bridge on East Stadium Drive which crosses over Interstate 35 in Jackson County bares Len Dawson's name and rightfully so.

The National Football League legend made Kansas City his home after he joined the Chiefs in 1963. He played for the team until he retired in 1975. Since then, Dawson has been known for his broadcast work as a sports director at a local news station, and also for his charity work for



organizations that help needy children.

The bridge dedication all came about thanks to Senator LeVota who introduced a bill which is part of the Missouri Department of Transportation’s highway designation program. The program honors individuals, events, places or organizations on Missouri’s state highway system.

See all the photos of this event on [MoDOT Kansas City’s Flickr site](#).



MoDOT’s Partnership with KCI Airport Soars

MoDOT’s Kansas City District Office continues to reach for new heights in transportation thanks to a soaring partnership with KCI Airport.

Efforts to grow that partnership recently included a meet and greet along with a tour of KCI’s facilities and grounds. Team members from MoDOT and KCI gathered with the hopes of getting a better understanding of what each agency is facing. The meeting started with an open dialogue that immediately focused on Amendment 7 and its failure to pass. The failure impacted both agencies, especially when it comes to future projects. One of the biggest projects to address was improvements or the replacement of the Broadway Bridge.

District Engineer Dan Niec said updating the Broadway Bridge was the number one priority of MoDOT. He said the bridge is one of the top three in the state of Missouri that needs to be replaced.



The discussion then transitioned into what projects can be done now. KCI’s Manager Jade Liska said the aging KCI airport needs to change because the world around us has changed. Liska was referring to the post 9/11 era in which security and safety are a primary focus. Liska also mentioned cosmetic improvements to KCI with which MoDOT could possibly help.

After the meeting wrapped up, Liska took members of MoDOT on a tour of the facilities.

Just like MoDOT, KCI has a fleet of snow plows for clearing its runways when the snow starts to fall. KCI also has a storage facility for salt and other mixtures for snow. From there the tour traveled onto one of the closed runways and a look at the expanded section of KCI where the private sector has built facilities. Perhaps the coolest part of the tour was the tower.



Inside, there’s a panoramic view of the area in which you could see for miles upon miles. And deep below the tower is a group of workers known as the moles, who operate the radar system where they work in nearly complete darkness.

The recent tour of KCI is all part of an effort to get to know area transportation partners. In August, staff members also met with the leaders of the KCATA and toured their facilities.

See more photos from this visit on [MoDOT Kansas City’s Flickr site](#).

For more info

Melissa Black
Customer Relations Manager,
Missouri Department of Transportation
Melissa.Black@modot.mo.gov
P: (816) 607-2027
F: (816) 365-0860

600 NE Colbern Road

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

October 9, 2014



Home
Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Ribbon Cut on Stadium Blvd. Expansion

Central District Engineer David Silvester, Sen. Kurt Schaefer, Boone County Commissioner Dan Atwill and Columbia City Manager Mike Matthes were among the dignitaries present to cut the ribbon on a \$12.7 million project to make improvements along Route 740 (Stadium Boulevard) in Columbia.

Under the \$12.7 million project, Stadium Boulevard was widened from just north of Interstate 70 to south of Broadway, and two lanes were added to Bernadette Drive from Fairview Road to Beverly Drive. As part of the project, central Missouri's first diverging diamond interchange was opened in Oct. 2013 at Stadium Boulevard and Interstate 70.

Funding for the improvements comes from a cost-share agreement between the MoDOT and the City of Columbia.



(from left to right) Sen. Kurt Schaeffer, Boone County Commissioner Dan Atwill, Columbia City Manager Mike Matthes and District Engineer David Silvester cut the ribbon on the Stadium Boulevard expansion project in Columbia.

More photos from the ceremony can be found on the district's Flickr page: <http://bit.ly/1s94LHL>

District Honors Long-Term Employees for Service and Safety

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition



30 Years		
Susan Ball	Stephen Brown	Raymond Bledsoe
Randall Potts	Patrick O'Rourke	John O. Hayes
Douglas Basham	Donald Payne	Charles Schroyer
Alan Trampe		
25 Years		
Steve Engelbrecht	Ricky Simmons	Preston Drace
Allen Frank	Benjamin Wharton	Betty Shadwick
Brenda Dudenhoeffer	Coleen Welter	Jeffery Madsen
John Vandelicht	John Kuhlman	
20 Years		
Bruce Volkart	Carl Porting	Charles Brandes
Christopher Moore	Christopher Feeler	Curt Kolb
Daniel Bassett	Donald Boulware	Donald Cox
Glen Cary	Jason Lackman	Joseph Martin
Kenny Krieg	Kenton Bohon	Kimberly Hilburn-Thomas
Nichol Cook	Stacy Summa	Tamara Gregory
Terry Morgan	Wayne Henderson	
Long-Term Safety Awards		
David Wood	Doug Thomas	Robbie Nolting
John Kuhlman	Stefan Sumowski	John Schneider
James Duncan	Donald Cox	Glen Cary
Dale Baumhoer	Charlie Schroyer	Donald Payne
Robert Lynch	Terry Morgan	Preston Drace
Allen Frank	Kent Bohon	

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

St. Louis
District

October 9, 2014

Home

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

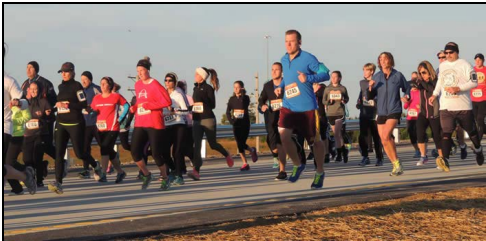
MoDOT Celebrates the Opening of the First Half of Route 364

by Jessica Wilson

MoDOT and its joint venture partner, Page Constructors, celebrated the opening of the first half of the new Route 364/Page Phase 3 project on Saturday, Oct. 4 with a 5K run, public viewing of the new road and a ribbon cutting.



MoDOT and Page Constructors team members celebrate the opening of the new road.



More than 200 runners take part in the One Shot and Done 5K run.

St. Louis Engineer Addresses Mature Driving at Safety Coalition Conference

by Shaunda White

Shirley Norris, a St. Louis engineer and MoDOT's oldest employee, sat on a panel addressing mature driving safety at the Missouri Blueprint Coalition Conference in downtown St. Louis last week. The 84-year-old was one of four drivers that shared stories and answered questions about the potential risks drivers face at advanced ages.

"Raising awareness to this topic is a very timely matter to bring to the Missouri Safety Coalition. This is relevant to all generations because people are living a lot longer now," said Norris from the panel.



Shirley Norris speaks at the Missouri Blueprint Coalition Conference about the challenges mature drivers face.

In the next 20 years the number of mature drivers (persons 70 & over) is predicted to triple in the United States. As people age, they begin to lose some of the abilities that enabled them to drive easily. Difficulties with sight, hearing, mental ability and physical agility can impair driving skills.

Studies show that mature drivers are less likely than other drivers to be in crashes involving high speeds or alcohol, but they are more likely to crash at intersections where they miss a stop sign or turn left in front of oncoming traffic.

More and more adults are being faced with making the decision to take the keys away from an elderly parent, which in some cases also takes away the sense of independence.

"I know that eventually that day will come that I will be asked to hand over my keys. I will oblige because I trust my children's judgment. However, that would have a major impact on my lifestyle. It opens a whole new world of having to plan and figure out how to get around on a daily basis," said Norris.

Public transportation is not always the best option for the elderly when some can also be faced with physical challenges.

Alternative transportation for seniors is offered as another solution, but some of these organizations ask for up to a two week notice in advance.

“I take precautions and do not drive at night or in unfavorable weather conditions. That is why I am so grateful for my MoDOT family and position which enables me to work from my laptop at home when such conditions arise. Therefore, I will continue to take the best care of myself so that I can keep driving,” said Norris.

Norris will be celebrating her 85th birthday in February and has no intentions on retiring anytime soon.

St. Louis Maintenance Worker Earns Safety Recognition

by Shaunda White

Luke Meese, a Sunset Hills maintenance worker, never stops short of ensuring that his co-workers are properly trained to avoid injuries. Because of his ongoing actions and commitment to safety, he has earned recognition as the Safety Employee for August.



Employees that work with Meese describe his knowledge of maintenance equipment as phenomenal. He is known to allocate time to coach newer employees on properly using and maintaining the MoDOT equipment.

“Luke is a team player. He takes out the time to make sure that everybody around him and the equipment they use is safe. He is outstanding and topnotch,” said co-worker Earl Catching Jr.

As employee of the month, Meese will receive a safety PPE bag, 2 hours or paid time off, Employee of the Month certificate and a month of district fame and recognition.

For more information or to nominate an employee for Safety Employee of the Month recognition, please contact a risk management representative.



Luke Meese (right) receives safety recognition from district engineer Greg Horn (left) at the staff meeting on Sept. 30.

For more info

Marie Elliott
Customer Relations Manager
St. Louis District
314-453-1807
Marie.Elliott@modot.mo.gov

1590 Woodlake Drive
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

October 9, 2014

Home

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Southwest District

Southwest District at Work



EASY THERE, HOTROD! – Maintenance Worker Bob McClary (left) watches while a man tries one of the Drunk Buster Karts at an Arrive Alive safety event in Joplin on Sept. 27. (Photo/LeAnn Blankenship)



MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION? – Clinton Senior Construction Inspector Steve Markham conducts a salary survey with a contractor at a bridge project on Route 13 south of Clinton. (Photo/David Mitchell)



FALL MOWING SEASON – Buffalo Senior Maintenance Worker Cory Hildebrandt mows along Route 32 in Dallas County near Long Lane. (Photo/David Mitchell)



GOT ANY FREEBIES? – A visitor to the MoDOT booth at the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce's Business to Business Expo talks to Assistant District Maintenance Engineer Bob Becker (left). (Photo/David Mitchell)

Ribbon Cutting Officially Opens Stone's Corner Roundabout

by David Mitchell

A ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opened the new dual-lane roundabout at Route 171/43 in the Village of Airport Drive near Joplin Tuesday, Sept. 30.

Construction of the \$3.3 million project was completed the week of Aug. 18.

The roundabout replaced a traditional, signalized four-way intersection at one of the busiest locations in the area, known as Stone’s Corner. Prior to the start of the project, traffic often backed up during morning and afternoon rush hours for as much as five cycles of the signals.

“It has eliminated congestion as we knew it at Stone’s Corner,” said Assistant District Engineer Dan Salisbury. “In addition, two new businesses are going in at this location which adds to the economy of the Village of Airport Drive.”

The Stone’s Corner roundabout handles more traffic than any other dual-lane roundabout in the Southwest District. An average of 29,000 cars pass through the intersection every day. That number is projected to increase to 35,000 by 2034.

“The finished product turned out very well,” said Joplin Intermediate Construction Inspector Ryan Dingman.

The decision to convert the Stone’s Corner intersection into a two-lane roundabout was controversial in the community.



Assistant District Engineer Dan Salisbury talks to local reporters about the importance of the new roundabout. (Photo/David Mitchell)

Dingman said from the beginning, people he heard from either loved it or hated it.

Now that construction is complete and the new configuration is open to traffic, opinions seem to be softening.

“I do hear more positive than negative,” said Dingman.

Mark Rains is the Chair Pro Tem of the Airport Drive Board of Trustees. He was skeptical about the idea of a roundabout at first.

But, he said, once he saw the final plans, “I was on board 100 percent.”

“It’s working great,” said Rains. “MoDOT did a great job. It went very smoothly.”

“I told a group of 90 people whom we met with right before construction started that I would come back and ‘face the music’ if it didn’t work,” added Salisbury. “Several called at the completion of the project and said it would not be necessary. They were elated.”

This is among the last major projects in the district until MoDOT’s funding issues are addressed. Bids on a new interchange on I-44 near Joplin’s Crossroads Business and Distribution Park await approval by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission at its meeting in October.



MoDOT, state and local dignitaries cut the ribbon officially dedicating the new dual-lane roundabout at Route 171/43 in the Village of Airport Drive near Joplin on Sept. 30. (Photo/David Mitchell)

SW District IS Technologist Recognized For Going ‘Above & Beyond’

by David Mitchell

Senior Information Systems Technologist Blaine Doss was recognized with the “Above & Beyond” award for August.

The award is given to any Information Systems employee in the state who goes well beyond the normal scope of the job.

Doss was recognized for installing fiber connectivity at the Springfield Project Office and at the District Office Complex.

In nominating him, Southwest District Information Systems Manager Marc Lewis, said Doss spent nine months working on the project while continuing to do his regularly assigned job duties.

“He worked with the Signal Shop to obtain some of their unused



Senior Information Systems Technologist Blaine

fiber ... at no cost,” Lewis said. “He borrowed their splicing equipment and spliced the fiber strands together himself.”

Doss works on electronic equipment at the Springfield District Office. (Photo/David Mitchell)

Doss worked with other employees in the district IS office to run the fiber through the conduit and trained them on fiber technology at the same time.

The final result was to remove the wireless point-to-point connection between buildings, increasing network speed and preparing the way to switch over to a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone system “to help us save even more money,” said Lewis.

For more info

Jennifer Williams
Customer Relations Manager
Southwest District
417.895.7713
Jennifer.Williams@modot.mo.gov

3025 E. Kearney
P.O. Box 868
Springfield, MO 65801

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

October 9, 2014

Home
Central Office

Districts

Northwest
Northeast
Kansas City
Central
St. Louis
Southwest
Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Southeast District

Sharecroppers Honored with Historical Marker

A ceremony was held Sept. 27 in Charleston, Mo., to celebrate the unveiling of the 1939 Sharecroppers Historical Marker.

The marker honors sharecroppers who were part of the 1939 strike following the New Deal, in which the government granted subsidies for cutting farm production. Instead of giving the sharecroppers a portion of their payments, many farmers kept the subsidy in entirety, leaving sharecroppers without payment and forcing them to move.

On Jan. 9, 1939, sharecroppers moved into Southeast Mo., camping near Route 60 and Route 61 at Sikeston. Others made their way to Charleston, Hayti, Morley, Lilbourn, Caruthersville and New Madrid, Mo. According to some reports, there were nearly 2,000 people taking part of the demonstration and fighting for fair treatment for sharecroppers.

Two individuals, Thad Snow and Owen Whitfield, were instrumental during the strike and were the main topics of discussion during the recent ceremony. Snow, according to the program for the event, was an “eccentric farmer and writer, who was best known for his involvement in Missouri’s 1939 Sharecropper Protest.”

Snow started growing cotton in the early 1920s. “Although he employed sharecroppers, he became a bitter critic of the system that exploited labor and fostered racism,” according to *Thad Snow: A Life of Social Reform in the Missouri Bootheel* by Bonnie Stepenoff.

Despite Snow’s strong stance on the plight of cotton workers and their exploitation, he remained confident in the belief that the world could be peacefully changed.

Snow became close to Whitfield, a preacher and organizer of the 1939 Missouri Sharecropper Roadside Demonstration. While many initially viewed his actions as propaganda, according to the event program, Whitfield felt that change was best achieved through the government and wanted to show plight of the homeless sharecroppers first hand. Whitfield also became involved in the Southern Tenant Farmers Union and eventually served as the union’s vice president.

Demonstrators were forced to leave the roadsides, citing that they were impacting public health. During this time, former Missouri Governor Lloyd Stark immediately ordered state highway officials to transport the demonstrators. The U.S. Farm Security Administration (FSA) eventually constructed homes for the homeless laborers. Ten communities or groups collectively known as the Delmo Farm Labor Homes in five counties in southeast Missouri were built: the Kennett Group in Dunklin County; the East Prairie and North Wyatt Groups in Mississippi County; the Morehouse, North Lilbourn, and South Lilbourn Groups in New Madrid County; the Gobler, North Wardell, and South Wardell Groups in Pemiscot County; and the Grayridge Group in Stoddard County. The project involved the construction of 595 prefabricated homes as well as community buildings, wells, and utilities.

In regard to the new historical marker, Assistant District Engineer Matt Seiler attended the ceremony and expressed the significance of what occurred. MoDOT helped in providing access for visitors to the site of the historical marker. In addition, Senior Historic Preservation Specialist Michael Meyer also attended the ceremony.

More information about the roadside demonstration and Delmo Farm Homes Project is available at: www.modot.org/ehp/sites/Delmo.htm.



Please click the image above to view photos from the dedication ceremony. The photos were provided by Assistant District Engineer Matt Seiler and Senior Historic Preservation Specialist Michael Meyer.

MoDOT Values Series

MoDOT has seven core principles, or values, that drive the Department. While knowing when you feel disrespected or unwelcome is easy, putting these terms into simple words can be somewhat difficult. But Southeast District employees are up to the challenge!

Recently, Senior Procurement Agent Tammy Baker and District Design Engineer Barry Horst worked with Customer Relations to shoot videos regarding respect and being accountable.

Additional videos to highlight the remaining values will be released in the coming weeks, including:

- Be Bold-Resident Engineer Tammy Hefner
- Be Safe-Maintenance Supervisor Shawn Shipley
- Be One Team-Senior Customer Service Representative Barbara Conner
- Be Better-Maintenance Crew Leader Tom Brickhaus
- Be Inclusive-Project Manager Jason Williams



For more info

Nicole Thieret
Customer Relations Manager
Southeast District
573.472.6632
Nicole.Thieret@modot.mo.gov

2675 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 160
Sikeston, MO 63801

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:

